

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 200145Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9993

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PROP, CH, PFOR, UR

SUBJ: ANOTHER EDITORIAL--BUT ROAD AHEAD UNMARKED

1. PEOPLE'S DAILY APRIL 18 OFFERED UP A RESTROSPECTIVE EDITORIAL WHICH FOCUSED ON THE APRIL 5 "INCIDENT" AT TIEN AN MENHKSPEKING 0611) BUT GAVE NO CLUES FOR ANY NEW DIRECTION IN THE ANTI-CAPITALIST ROADER CAMPAIGN. ALMOST TWO WEEKS AFTER THE "INCIDENT," WHICH BEGAN AS A COMMEMORATION OF THE LATE PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI, IT IS NOTABLE THAT THE REGIME FEELS IT NECESSARY TO REHASH THE EVENTS AND CONDEMN THEM ONCE AGAIN, AS IF THERE IS A FEELING OF UNEASE THAT ELEMENTS OF THE POPULACE ARE NOT IN ACCORD WITH THE REGIME'S VIEW OF THESE EVENTS AS A "NEGATIVE EXAMPLE."

2. THE EDITORIAL IF FLECKED WITH ATTACKS AGAINST CAPITALIST
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ROADERS, IN THE PLURAL, AS IF TO INDICATE A BROADENING OF

CAMPAIGN TARGETS. THESE LEADS ARE NOT PICKED UP, HOWEVER, AND THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES ON A RATHER FAMILIAR NOTE TO SUPPRESS THE "HANDFUL OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES" WHO ATTACK CHAIRMAN MAO AND BRING THE ANTI-RIGHT DEVIATIONIST STRUGGLE AND CRITICISM OF TENG "TO A NEW HEIGHT." GIVEN THE FACT THAT SO MANY MODERATES AND CULTURAL REVOLUTION REHABILITEES HAVE MADE PUBLIC APPEARANCES RECENTLY, THE CAMPAIGN APPEARS TO BE MARKING TIME WITH ATTACKS CONCENTRATING ON THE ALREADY DEPOSED TENG. THE EDITORIAL ALSO BRINGS THE POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE TOPIC OF THE SOVIETS INTO THE DEBATE WITH THE STATEMENT THAT "THIS TIME THE SOVIET REVISIONIST RENEGADE CLIQUE WERE FOR A WHILE BESIDE THEMSELVES WITH JOY AT THE THOUGHT THAT THEIR SO-CALLED 'HEALTHY FORCES' WOULD PULL OFF SOMETHING BIT." HOWEVER, THE EDITORIAL CHOOSES NOT TO ELABORATE ON THIS THEME.

3. ALTHOUGH TENG IS ACCUSED OF BEING THE "WIRE-PULLER" BEHIND ATTACKS AGAINST CHAIRMAN MAO, THE EDITORIAL IS CAREFUL, LIKE ALL MEDIA PIECES SINCE THE TIEN AN MEN INCIDENT, NOT TO CHARGE TENG DIRECTLY WITH BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT EVENT. AN NCNA ITEM APRIL 16 ALSO TOOK GREAT PAINS TO LAY OUT THE CASE AGAINST TENG AS AN UNREPENTENT BOURGEOIS DEMOCRAT WHO STILL REMAINS DISTINCT FROM PREVIOUS CLASS ENEMIES LIKE LIU SHAO-CHI AND LIN PIAO. SUCH ARGUMENTS, PREVALENT ALSO BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE POLITBURO'S APRIL 7 DECISION DISMISSING TENG (HK 3662), SEEM A DEFENSE OF POLITBURO ACTION NOT TO STRIP HIM FROM HIS PARTY MEMBERSHIP. HOWEVER, FROM INDICATIONS IN OTHER ARTICLES, SUCH AS THE APRIL 9 STATEMENT BY A PEKING/TSINGHUA UNIVERSITIES' SPOKESMAN THAT TENG STILL REFUSES TO REPENT, THIS ISSUE TOO APPEARS FAR FROM RESOLVED.

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